

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension or Revocation)
of the Educator Certificate of)
Loana C. Benton)
Certificate 168160)

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on April 12, 2006. On January 23, 2006, the State Department of Education (Department) sent notice of the possible suspension of Loana C. Benton's educator certificate by regular and certified mail, return receipt requested. Ms. Benton requested a hearing, but subsequently agreed to waive her right to a hearing and to accept the issuance a public reprimand. After considering the evidence presented by the Department, the State Board voted to issue a public reprimand to Ms. Benton.

Loana C.
Benton

Initial here

Date _____

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Benton holds a valid South Carolina certificate and has over eleven years of teaching experience. She is certified in generic special education and elementary education. For the 2005-2006 school year, Ms. Benton was hired by Spartanburg County School District Five (District) to teach preschool-age children with disabilities at Duncan Elementary School. On November 30, 2005, Ms. Benton resigned from the District following allegations that she used

inappropriate and/or unauthorized procedures for managing the children in her care, resulting in what the District considered to be mistreatment of children.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

"The State Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-150 (2004), S.C. Code Ann. §59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58. Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004). The Board finds that the information presented supports its conclusion that just cause exists for the issuance of a public reprimand to Ms. Benton. Accordingly, the Board issues this Consent Order of Public Reprimand, which shall be reported to all school districts in South Carolina and maintained as a public record in the Office of General Counsel.

South Carolina State Board of Education

/S/ Joe Isaac
Joe Isaac, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

April 12, 2006

I, Loana C. Benton, S.C. Educator Certificate 168160, do hereby agree to this Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of two pages, and understand that this Order will be presented as signed to the State Board of Education on April 12, 2006.

/S/ Loana C. Benton
Loana C. Benton

3/21/06
Date